

Application No. 10/075,404
Response to Office Action mailed May 4, 2006
Amendment dated August 25, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently amended) In a capillary electrophoresis method in which analyte species are separated by differential electrophoretic migration through a fluid separation medium under the influence of a constant run field, an improvement for reducing peak broadening caused when the constant run field is established comprising:

establishing the constant run field at a ramp rate no greater than about 5 V/cm-s;

wherein the fluid separation medium is a buffered solution containing a non-crosslinked polymer and the analyte species are nucleic acid.

24. (Currently amended) In a capillary electrophoresis method in which analyte species are separated by differential electrophoretic migration through a fluid separation medium under the influence of a constant run field, an improvement for reducing peak broadening caused when the constant run field is established comprising:

establishing the constant run field at a ramp rate no greater than about 5 V/cm-s;

wherein the analyte species are nucleic acid.

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25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field ranges from about 50 V/cm to about 3,000 V/cm.
26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field ranges between about 80 V/cm and 500 V/cm.
27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field is established over a period of at least about 10 seconds.
28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the run field is established over a period ranging from about 20 seconds to about 4,000 seconds.
29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 23, wherein the ramp rate ranges from about 0.1 V/cm-s to about 1.0 V/cm-s.
30. (Currently amended) The method of claim 23, wherein peak broadening associated with establishment of a run field is reduced at least about 10% compared to that found when [[an electric]] the run field is established not using a ramp rate [[is not used]].
31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 25%.

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32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 40%.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field ranges from about 50 V/cm to about 3,000 V/cm.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field ranges between about 80 V/cm and 500 V/cm.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field is established over a period of at least about 10 seconds.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the run field is established over a period ranging from about 20 seconds to about 4,000 seconds.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 24, wherein the ramp rate ranges from about 0.1 V/cm-s to about 1.0 V/cm-s.

38. (Currently amended) The method of claim 24, wherein peak broadening associated with establishment of a run field is reduced at least about 10% compared to that found when [[an electric]] the run field is established not using a ramp rate [[is not used]].

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39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 38, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 25%.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 39, wherein peak broadening is reduced at least about 40%.